

THE TRIBUNAL AID

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**A VIABLE, VALID REQUIREMENT
RESPONDING TO
BLACK NORTH CAROLINA**

The 1976 Editions of THE TRIBUNAL AID will be dedicated to America's bicentennial Celebration, with emphasis on contributions our Race has made in the making of America, from birth to the present.
In 1976 there should not be a need to lift these contributions from isolated sources. Our past

should be interwoven into the fabric of our civilization, because we are, except for the Indian, America's oldest ethnic minority.

We have helped make America what it was, and what it is, since the founding of Virginia. We have been a factor in many major issues in our history. There have been many misdeeds

against us, yet we have been able to live through them and fight back. This is living proof of our history.

Our role in the making of America is neither well known or correctly known. Many positive contributions have escaped historians and have not found their way into the pages of many history books.

We will strive to give readers, Black and white, many little-known facts about our past and it is hoped that a proper perspective of our history will be of value to persons who may believe that as Black people we have an unworthy past; and hence, no strong claims to all rights of other Americans.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY BLACK AMERICAN INVENTORS

By Faye Ashe, Black History Editor

In the midst of the economic development of the United States since the Civil War, Blacks not only demonstrated their ability to accumulate a portion of the world's goods, but by their inventive genius contributed much toward the economic progress of the country. Exactly how many Blacks have appeared in the field of inventions is not known. There is evidence that some of the inventions brought out by white persons in the South prior to the Civil War were devices invented by Blacks. The slave as such, according to an opinion of Jeremiah S. Black, Attorney-General of the United States in 1858, could not be granted a patent. The reason was that the slave could neither contract with the government or assign his invention to his master.

Confronting this problem, when Benjamin T. Montgomery, a slave of Jefferson Davis, was on this ground denied a patent on an invention, the President of the Confederate States secured the enactment of the law providing for patenting inventions of slaves. This law was: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT IN CASE THE ORIGINAL INVENTOR OR DISCOVERER OF THE ART, MACHINE OR IMPROVEMENT FOR WHICH A PATENT IS SOLICITED IS A SLAVE, THE MASTER OF SUCH SLAVE MAY TAKE OATH THAT THE SAID SLAVE WAS THE ORIGINAL; AND ON COMPLYING WITH THE REQUISITES OF THE LAW SHALL RECEIVE A PATENT FOR SAID DISCOVERY OR INVENTION, AND HAVE ALL RIGHTS TO WHICH A PATENTEE IS ENTITLED BY LAW.

Many Blacks were among those who produced electrical, mechanical, and telephonic equipment. Before the turn of the 19th century, Blacks had patented hundreds of inventions. They produced everything from new kinds of elevators to photographic and telegraphic equipment to refrigerators, golf tees, and modern bath room fixtures.



Lewis Howard Latimer assisted Bell and Edison.

join the United States Electric Lighting Company at Bridgeport, Connecticut where with the noted inventor Hiram S. Maxim, he invented an incandescent electric light and supervised the building of manufacturing plants in New York, Philadelphia, and Canada. Latimer joined the engineering staff of the Edison Electric Company in 1884. He worked with Edison for many years, becoming the only Black member of the famous Edison Pioneers, a group of people who had worked with Edison before 1885. In 1890 Latimer wrote a book explaining, to the general public the use and workings of the electric light. Latimer also proved invaluable to the legal department of the Edison Company. He had usually drawn the original plans for Edison inventions and served as the company's star witness in patent cases that reached the courts.

During the close of the last century GRANVILLE T. WOOD surpassed every other inventor of his race in the number and variety of his devices. His record began in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1884. WOODS directed his inventive talents toward improvements in the railroad and electrical industries. He invented a telegraph system that made it possible to send messages between moving trains, thus reducing the danger of accidents. His invention of an automatic air brake brought greater safety to the nation's railroads. WOODS also contributed to the development of the "third rail" used in electrical railroads.

He invented devices which he sold to Bell Edison and Westinghouse. In two patent cases against the Edison Company, Woods was able to prove that he had earlier rights to inventions claimed by Edison. After the second court victory, Thomas Edison offered WOODS a position which he turned down preferring to be his own boss. In 1888 the AMERICAN CATHOLIC TRIBUNE called Woods "the greatest electrician in the world." WOODS is unknown today, but he was highly thought of in his own time.



Granville T. Woods invented devices purchased by Bell, Westinghouse, and Edison.

ELIJAH MCCOY, the son of runaway slaves, played a prominent role in the development of transportation and factory machinery. In 1872 McCoy, educated in Scotland as a mechanical engineer, invented a lubricating cup that fed oil to parts of a machine while it was in operation. This made it possible for locomotives, steam boilers, and factory machinery to be oiled with interrupting their operations. McCoy received more than 57 patents for his various devices.

LEWIS HOWARD LATIMER, who worked with both Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison, was born to a poor Boston family in 1848. To help support the family, and at the same time in further the cause of emancipation, he sold copies of William Lloyd Garrison's The Liberator on the street. When he was 16, LATIMER joined the United States Navy and served aboard the U.S.S. Massasoit during the Civil War. After the war, he returned to Boston where he began work as an office boy in company of patent lawyers. He rose to the position of chief draftsman for the firm.

Around 1876 Latimer, then an expert electrical engineer and draftsman, met Alexander Graham Bell. Some of the people who knew Latimer in the early days said; "It was Latimer who executed the drawings and assisted in preparing the applications for the telephone patents of Alexander Graham Bell." He left Bell to

Shoe Company which bought his invention. Yet MATZELIGER sold it for very little and like many other inventors, died a poor man, at the age of 36.

The most noted Black inventor of the modern period was GARRETT A. MORGAN, inventor of the GAS MASK. In 1923 MORGAN invented the TRAFFIC LIGHT, a complicated device with a simple purpose, the invention has saved many lives from that day on.

Some other inventions of Blacks of less consequence were of much value: J. H. DICKINSON and S.L. DICKINSON, were granted a dozen patents for mechanical appliances used in the PLAYER PIANO MACHINERY. W.B. PURVIS invented machinery for making PAPER BAGS later sold to the UNION PAPER BAG COMPANY OF NEW YORK. A.B. ALBERT invented a cotton-picking machine. CHARLES V. RICHEY INVENTED AND PATENTED SEVERAL DEVICES FOR REGISTERING CALLS AND DETECTING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE TELEPHONE. SHELBY J. DAVIDSON invented a MECHANICAL TABULATOR OR ADDING MACHINE. ROBERT A. PELHAM, A PASTING MACHINE AND ANDREW F. HILYER, TWO HOT-AIR REGISTER ATTACHMENTS. BENJAMIN F. JACKSON INVENTED A HEAT APPARATUS, A GAS BURNER, AN ELECTRO-TYPER'S FURNACE, A STEAM BOILER.



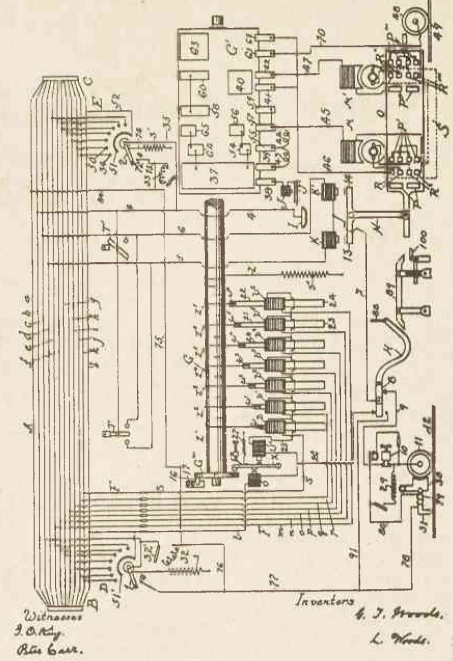
Jan Matzeliger, inventor of the machine that revolutionized the shoe industry and made Lynn, Massachusetts the shoe capital of the world. Government experts, baffled by his patent drawings, sent a specialist to examine the machine. Matzeliger died young and poor after working ten years to develop his device.

A TROLLEY WHEEL CONTROLLER. A TANK SIGNAL AND A HYDROCARBON BURNER SYSTEM. FRANK J. FERRELL OF New York obtained a dozen patents for IMPROVEMENTS IN VALVES FOR STEAM ENGINES. GEORGE W. MURRAY; a former member of Congress from South Carolina, patented eight inventions of AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS. HENRY KREAMER of New York made several inventions in STEAM TRAPS. WILLIAM DOUGLASS, secured six patents for inventions of HARVESTING MACHINERY. JAMES DOYLE devised the automatic serving system so as to dispense with the use of waiters in cafes. J. L. PICKERING, JAMES SMITH, W.G. MADISON AND H.E. HOOTER were granted patents for inventions in AIRSHIPS. In 1897 ANDREW J. BEARD WAS GIVEN A PATENT FOR AN AUTOMATIC CAR COUPLING DEVICE and sold it to a New York Car Company for more than \$50,000. WILLIAM H. JOHNSON invented a successful device for OVERCOMING DEAD CENTER IN MOTION. While keeping a hotel in Boston, JOSEPH LEE patented three inventions for KEEDING DOUGH. BRINAY SMART invented a number of RESERVE VALVE GEARS. J.W. BENTON invented a DERRICK FOR HOISTING HEAVY WEIGHTS. JOHN T. PARKER INVENTED SCREWS FOR TOBACCO PRESSES with which he established a thriving business as the RIPLEY FOUNDRY AND MACHINE COMPANY of Ripley, Ohio.

The complete story of the early Black Inventors cannot be told because prejudice has blurred the picture. When inventors found that many people would not accept their inventions when it was learned they were Black, many concealed their identities. A Navel Cadet who left Annapolis because of racial prejudice, HENRY E. BAKER, Assistant Examiner of the United States Patent Office for many years conducted a long and careful investigation of Black inventors. In 1900 published his first finding in four giant volumes which include the actual drawings and plans submitted to the patent office by Black inventors prior to the turn of the century. The book titled: THE COLORED INVENTORS-A RECORD OF FIFTY YEARS. BY HENRY HAKER, ASSISTANT EXAMINER UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

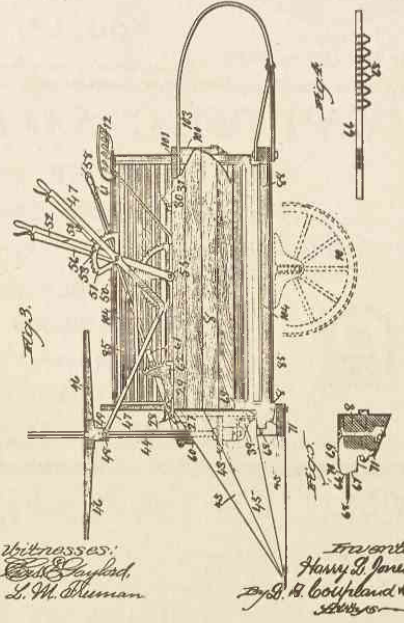
This is a part of our History which has been "LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN". Our recent history still abounds with individual Black heroes in medicine, engineering, and science. With the general

No. 705,243. PATENTED JULY 18, 1905. G. T. & L. WOODS. RAILWAY BRAKE APPARATUS. APPLICATION FILED APR. 10, 1904.



surge of Black people into scientific occupations, there remain the individuals whose work is extraordinary today. B.V. MONTEZ has developed many ELECTRONIC DEVICES such as TAPE RECORDERS, LISTENING AIDS, RECEIVERS FOR HELMETS OF PRO FOOTBALL PLAYERS. EMANUEL MOORE designed EARTH MOVING MACHINE which can deliver twice as much as conventional excavators. SGT. ADOLPHUS SAMMS has several patented ROCKET DESIGNS. The work of Black American scientist and technicians continues adding to the already proud legacy.

(No Model.) H. L. JONES. COGN HARVESTER. No. 429,311. Patented June 3, 1890.



INVENTIONS THAT INFLUENCED PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES

INVENTOR	INVENTION	DATE
Bailiff, C. O.	Shampoo headrest	1898
Bailey, L. C.	Folding bed	1899
Binga, M. W.	Street sprinkler	1879
Boone, Sarah	Ironing board	1892
Brooks, C. B.	Street sweepers	1896
Burr, J. A.	Lawn mower	1899
Church, T. S.	Carpet beating machine	1884
Elkins, T.	Combination of dining, ironing table and quilting frame	1870
	Chamber commode	1872
Faulkner, H.	Ventilated shoe	1890
Fisher, D. A.	Joiner's clamp and furniture castor	1875
Goode, Sarah	Folding cabinet bed	1886
Jackson, B. F.	Heater and Gas burner	1899
Latimer, L. H.	Incandescent electric light bulb with carbon filament	1881
Lewis, A. L.	Window cleaner	1892
Miles, A.	Elevator	1887
Newson, S.	Cooker	1894
Purvis, W. B.	Fountain pen	1890
Ray, L. P.	Dust pan	1897
Smith, J. W.	Lawn sprinkler	1897
Standard, J.	Oil stove and Refrigerator	1889
	Waste trap for basins	1891
Thomas, S. E.	Lemon squeezer	1896

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